

**anthracite** *n.*

a hard coal that burns with very little flame

In the United States, **anthracite**, or hard coal, is found mainly in Pennsylvania.

**billowed** *v.*

form of the verb *billow*

rose in waves

Smoke **billowed** from the chimney in large, black clouds.

**boarders** *n.*

plural form of the noun *boarder*

guests who pay for a room and food

Taking in **boarders** was a way for the family to earn extra money.

**breaker** *n.*

a tall building where coal from a mine is broken up and sorted

The **breaker** was a large building filled with the deafening sounds of machinery in motion.



**breaker boys** *n.*

the boys who sorted rocks from the coal

The **breaker boys** worked long hours picking rocks from the coal.



**butties** *n.*

plural form of the noun *butty*

unskilled workers in a coal mine

**Butties** lived in shacks lining the side streets of the patch village.

**capitalistic** *adj.*

relates to an economy where people, not governments, own businesses

When Matthew sold apples one summer, that was his first **capitalistic** venture.

**colliery** *n.*

a coal mine, including the buildings and equipment

The men worked at the **colliery** for twelve hours a day.



**compulsory** *adj.*

required

It was **compulsory** to shop at the company store.

**conveyers** *n.*

plural form of the noun *conveyor*

mechanical belts or chains to carry materials

The **conveyers** carried the coal from one workstation to the next in the breaker where the boys worked.



**culm** *n.*

low-grade coal and other trash rocks

The banks of **culm** were filled with broken pieces of coal and stones from the coal mine.



**descendants** *n.*

plural form of the noun *descendant*

offspring

The **descendants** of the coal miners often became coal miners, too.

**dole** *v.*

to give out in small portions

The plan was to **dole** out the food until everyone had been served.

**erected** *v.*

form of the verb *erect*

constructed; built

The building was **erected** on the company property.

**evicted** *v.*

form of the verb *evict*

made to leave for good

The man had been **evicted** from the apartment because he did not pay his rent.

**exorbitant** *adj.*

too much, especially in cost

Sugar and flour cost an **exorbitant** amount at the company store.

**goose grease** *n.*

the melted fat of a goose

The **goose grease** was put on the boy's cracked skin.

**hobnailed boots** *n.*

boots with nails to protect the soles

**Hobnailed boots** lasted longer than boots without hobnails.



**impaired** *v.*

form of the verb *impair*

reduced

The broken leg **impaired** his ability to get around.

**inflated** *v.*

form of the verb *inflate*

made higher than normal

The company store **inflated** prices, which made it difficult for the miner to save money.

**kielbasa** *n.*

a smoked sausage of chopped beef and pork

The meal of **kielbasa** and potatoes was very filling.

**muck** *n.*

trash, rocks, and useless material

Removing **muck** from the coal was the breaker boy's job.

**notarized** *v.*

form of the verb *notarize*

certified, as a contract or other document

The contract had to be **notarized** to be official.

**old-stock** *adj.*

refers to or describes people from established family backgrounds

The people who ran the mines came from **old-stock** mining families.

**patronize** *v.*



to be a customer of

The miners were encouraged not to **patronize** stores outside the mining community.

**pelting** *v.*

form of the verb *pelt*

throwing things at something

The boys enjoyed **pelting** the target with stones.

**prestigious** *adj.*

having a good reputation

The mine boss's son went to a **prestigious** college in Pennsylvania.

**refuse** *n.*

trash

The piles of **refuse** from the coal mine grew larger and larger, until they became hills.

**retaliated** *v.*

form of the verb *retaliate*

got even with, in a similar way

The men **retaliated** for not being paid by breaking windows.

**royalty** *n.*

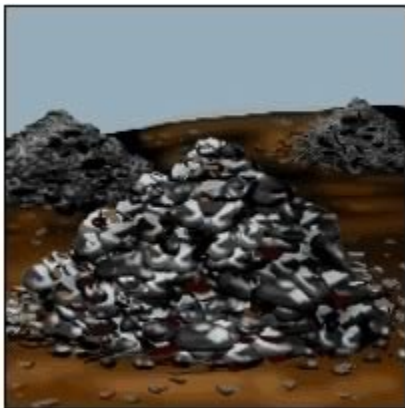
a person's share of profits, as from a business

The mine workers received no **royalty** when the price of coal soared.

**rubble** *n.*

broken pieces of any solid substance

The **rubble** from the mine is piled up around the mine.



**sooty** *adj.*

covered with a fine black powder that comes off coal

The **sooty** rooftops made the village look gloomy.

**spewed** *v.*

form of the verb *spew*

threw out

Flames **spewed** from the burning building.

**squibs** *n.*

plural form of the noun *squib*

small fireworks used to set off a bigger explosion

The miners used **squibs** to help make holes in the mine.

**stoking** *v.*

form of the verb *stoke*

poking, stirring up, and feeding a fire

**Stoking** the fire came before cooking breakfast.

**subsidence** *n.*

sinking

The miners watched the slow **subsidence** of the house into the mine tunnel.

**trustees** *n.*

plural form of the noun *trustee*

people who take care of other people's business

Parents are **trustees** for their children.

**tuition** *n.*

money paid for schooling

The **tuition** for the local college is not very expensive.

**vermin** *n.*

small troublesome animals or insects

The **vermin** made a mess of the food cupboard.